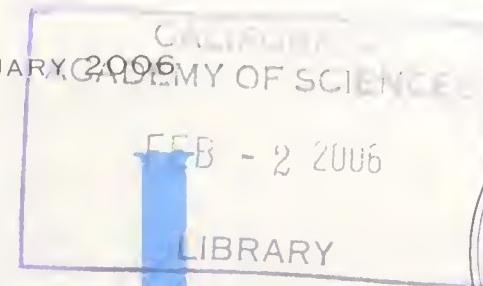


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THE GULL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY



FOUNDED 1917

Sibley Preserve—Linchpin for the Caldecott Corridor

The board of directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is preparing to give final approval to a proposal that would dramatically expand recreation infrastructure at the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. This new development would increase traffic and noise, potentially upsetting the already fragile Caldecott Wildlife Corridor and the animals that depend upon it.

Sibley Preserve includes lands to the north and south of Highway 24 and is an essential piece of the Caldecott Wildlife Corridor. Straddling the Caldecott Tunnel, the 20-mile corridor is an important stretch of habitat that serves as a bridge between



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mountain Lion.

northern and southern Contra Costa County. It supports a broad range of species, including Mountain Lion and Bobcat, as well as such special-status avian species as Golden Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and White-tailed Kite.

Under the EBRPD's 1997 Master Plan, preserves, unlike parks, are to be managed primarily for the protection of natural and cultural resources. Nevertheless, the EBRPD is calling for a massive increase in recreation at Sibley Preserve.

In 2004, the EBRPD drafted a Land Use Plan Amendment for Sibley Preserve that calls for infrastructure to accommodate a new 300-person camping facility. This would mean the addition of a new 60-car parking lot, as well as the development and improvement of roads, to provide access to the campsites. Because this area is not suitable for camping and lacks shade, wind protection, and an on-site water source, even more infrastructure will be needed for such a large-scale increase in recreation.

SIBLEY PRESERVE continued on page 12

Help Count Birds at the MLK Wetland

The 72-acre wetland at Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland is considered one of the Central Bay's most successful wetland restorations to date. According to bird count data collected by Golden Gate Audubon volunteers since 1999, hundreds of shorebirds and waterbirds rely on the foraging and roosting areas in the restored wetland during migration and in winter.

The San Francisco Foundation has given Golden Gate Audubon a generous grant to extend the census of both the restored wetland and the adjacent Arrowhead Marsh. Now we need your help in counting the birds and ensuring the continued effectiveness of the census.

Whether you are a beginning or experienced birder, we welcome your participation. Birders count in pairs, so if you feel unsure about identifying shorebirds and waterfowl in the field, you can be partnered with a more experienced birder. You'll be able to hone your identification skills, and after just a few counts, you'll feel like an expert.

Don't miss an opportunity to participate in this exciting project and observe hundreds of wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. To sign up or find out more information, contact Noreen Weeden at noreenweedengas@yahoo.com or 415.252.1039. To read a report on the MLK restoration, see the October 2005 *Gull* or go to goldengateaudubon.org.



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Berry Brosi
Kevin Consey Finance
Leora Feeney FAWR
Bob Lewis Education
Miles McKey Latin America liaison
Sylvia Stone Human Resources
Noreen Weeden Secretary

415.681.7422

Bruce Mast observe@goldengateaudubon.org

webeditor@goldengateaudubon.org

Marjorie Blackwell marjb@sbcglobal.net
Judith Dunham 510.841.8149

Elizabeth Murdock 510.843.9912

Samantha Murray 510.843.2222

Amiko Mayeno 510.635.5533

Aida Villa avilla@goldengateaudubon.org

Tara Zuardo 510.843.2222

Susan Groves 510.654.5954

Susanne Shields 415.810.4900

The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Society Supporting Membership is \$25 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. The board of directors meets the last Monday of every month (except August and December) at 7:30 p.m. in the chapter office in Berkeley.

The *Gull* is published nine times per year by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The deadline for submissions is five weeks prior to the month of publication. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA. Send address changes to office promptly. The post office does not forward *The Gull*.

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Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

TEL 510.843.2222 FAX 510.843.5351
www.goldengateaudubon.org
ggas@goldengateaudubon.org

Nature Store hours: Monday – Friday, 9–12, 1–5

Design and layout e.g. communications

New Look, New Faces, New Opportunities

January ushers in a new year and heralds exciting developments at Golden Gate Audubon—beginning with a new look for *The Gull*. Thanks to the creative efforts of our Publications Committee and Eva Guralnick, Mark Briggs, and Amy Layne at e.g. communications, our inaugural newsletter of 2006 features a fresh, elegant design.

We also enthusiastically welcome Samantha Murray, Golden Gate Audubon's new conservation director. Samantha is providing leadership to our conservation programs, from our efforts to protect Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (see her article on page 1) to our wetland restoration projects at Oakland's Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline and San Francisco's Pier 94. She is looking forward to meeting our members and working closely with our volunteers.

The GGA board of directors is pleased to have two new members: Noreen Weeden and Berry Brosi. Noreen is an avid birder and an active member of the San Francisco Conservation Committee, where she has led our efforts to protect habitats along San Francisco's southern waterfront (including Pier 94) and worked with the committee to organize this year's Quail Restore-A-Thon (see her article, opposite). She will serve as board secretary. Berry Brosi is a fourth-year PhD student at Stanford University's Center for Conservation Biology, where he is studying the effects of native habitat and agricultural management on bee communities and pollination in southern Costa Rica. Noreen's and Berry's knowledge and talents will contribute greatly to our conservation and education efforts.

All of these individuals—and the rest of our staff, board, and volunteers—are critical to implementing Golden Gate Audubon's vision for protecting Bay Area wildlife and habitats. We are committed to engaging people in this vision and invite you to participate in our many projects and activities over the coming year. One is the bird census at Oakland's MLK Shoreline Park (see page 1). Thanks to funding from the San Francisco Foundation, we are in the eighth year of our MLK census. The observations collected by volunteers will inform future wetland restoration projects. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness how Golden Gate Audubon helped restore a valuable wetland.

As you read this combined January–February issue of *The Gull*, I hope you will be inspired to get involved in the many ways Golden Gate Audubon connects people with wildlife and wild places around the bay. An easy first step is to renew your annual Supporting Membership when you receive a notice in the coming weeks. Renewing your Supporting Membership right away will help us reduce our office labor and ensure that you won't miss a single issue of *The Gull*!

Most importantly, you will be supporting the essential work that we do right here in the Bay Area and ensuring that Golden Gate Audubon will continue to be a leader in Bay Area conservation and education in 2006.

by Elizabeth Murdock, Executive Director

Golden Gate Audubon Board Nominations

Golden Gate Audubon will have three slots open for elected members of the board of directors, with terms beginning on May 29, 2006. Member petitions for nominations must be submitted to the Golden Gate Audubon office by February 15, 2006, 12 weeks before the board election, which will be held on May 15, 2006. The petitions must be signed by a minimum of 100 (and a maximum of 500) members in good standing. The names of board candidates will be published in the April 2006 *Gull*, along with ballot forms for members to fill out and send in by May 15. If you wish to submit a nominating petition, please call executive director Elizabeth Murdock at 510.843.9912 or board development committee chair Jacqui Smalley at 510.665.0998.

Volunteers Turn Out to Restore Habitat and Help Quail

On Saturday, November 12, a beautiful fall day, 50 energetic volunteers planted 800 plants during Golden Gate Audubon's third annual Quail Restore-A-Thon in San Francisco. The day began with enjoying organic, shade-grown coffee and delicious homemade cookies baked by GGA's San Francisco Conservation Committee members. The group was then ready to restore habitat by installing plants that will support the city's quail population.

At Harding Park, Alan Hopkins dedicated the planting to Caroline Gates, a San Francisco Recreation and Park gardener and quail enthusiast, who passed away this year. He also spoke about the status of the California Quail in the city and verified a recent sighting at a neighborhood near the park. Volunteers planted native shrubs such as manzanita, Sticky Monkeyflower, Quail Bush, Wild Lilac, Coffee Berry, Flowering Currant, California Wax Myrtle, Barberry, Desert Artemesia, and California Fuchsia.

Meanwhile, San Francisco Conservation Committee members Matt Zlatunich and Nancy Smith along with Damien Raffa from the Presidio Trust led the team at Quail Commons in the Presidio in clearing ice plants. Volunteers then planted a



Matt Zlatunich (center) and other volunteers clearing ice plants at the Presidio.

Charles Denson

hillside with Coyote Bush, Mock Heather, Coffee Berry, Dune Knotweed, Cobweb Thistle, Beach Strawberry, Yarrow, and other natives.

During a short break at each site, dozens of prizes—including admission passes and

magazine subscriptions—were raffled off to the hard-working volunteers. Upon completion of the planting, volunteers from both locations met at Quail Commons for a tasty potluck lunch. Damien and Alan led the group through restored habitat where we saw healthy native plants and birds, including great looks at Red Crossbills. Following up on a neighbor's tip, our reward was a view of several quail—a perfect end to the day.

We thank all the generous contributors who provided prizes and other items for the 2005 Restore-A-Thon: *Bay Nature* magazine, *Birder's World* magazine, California Academy of Sciences, Pelican Media (creator of the film *Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*), Presidio Bowling Center, Presidio Café, Rainbow Grocery Cooperative, San Francisco Zoo, and Starbucks Coffee Company.

We also thank the Harding Park Golf Course, National Park Service, Presidio Trust, and San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, our partners in the Quail Restore-A-Thon and monthly restoration activities.

by Noreen Weeden,
San Francisco Conservation Committee



Samantha Murray, Golden Gate Audubon's new conservation director (left), and volunteers planting a host of native plants at Harding Park.



Elizabeth Murdock

Chaparral Currant—Wildlife Magnet

Come November, many trees go bare and the ground turns cold and wet, but the Chaparral Currant bushes in my garden are busting out hundreds of flowers. The small, pink-tinged, white flowers of this hardy California native are jammed together into hanging, two-inch-long clusters. Rub the fresh green leaves between your fingers, and the intoxicating, spicy-sweet aroma particular to California chaparral will be your reward.

The nectar-rich, flared tube flowers of *Ribes malvaceum* are the earliest bloomers of the California currants and gooseberries. Those in my garden started showing flower buds in late September. Hummingbirds drink the nectar of this plant, and during autumn, when other ribes are not yet blooming, resident Anna's Hummingbirds wildly defend the territory of a Chaparral Currant. The nickel-sized, lobed leaves have a finely quilted texture; native bees and butterflies rest and warm themselves on the surface, and Tailed Copper butterflies use the bush as a host plant.

The smooth, terra-cotta bark of the branches splits open and peels back to reveal a brown, satin-finish underskin. The growth pattern is open and initially erect, then the branches drape into a graceful network. Height at maturity is between five to eight feet, and width is four to six feet. After a flowering period that can last from fall



Chaparral Currant in bloom.

to retain moisture and maintain evenness of the soil temperature. It is not necessary to fertilize this plant; the nutrients from the amendment or mulch are sufficient. This plant is essentially pest free.

To obtain Chaparral Currant, contact local nurseries that carry native plants. Native Here Nursery, run by the California Native Plant Society and located in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley, carries *Ribes malvaceum*. Call 510.549.0211 for availability.

Chaparral Currant is not yet well known as a garden plant, but is well worth the search to obtain it. The cut branches work beautifully for display in vases and will bring a lovely scent to your home.

by Corinne Greenberg

Corinne Greenberg teaches a class, Gardening for the Birds and Other Friends, at Albany Adult School, beginning on January 12. Cosponsored by GGA, the five-week class meets in the evenings and includes one Saturday field trip. For more information on this class and others on birds, local mushrooms, and butterflies offered by Albany Adult School and GGA, go to www.goldengateaudubon.org or call the Albany Adult School at 510.559.6580.

Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education, and member activities!

GOLDEN EAGLE \$1000 & MORE
Marj & Bill Blackwell, Kevin & Susan Consey

PURPLE RIBBON \$500 TO \$999
Harold Kirker

ALL OTHERS \$200 TO \$499
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IN MEMORY
Lois Andiloro (Restore-A-Thon), Karen & Slade

Backer, Porter & Martha V. Baker, Ronald Barklow and Viola Saima-Barklow, Eddie Bartley and Noreen Weeden (Restore-A-Thon), Marcelle Baxter, Kathleen M. Bertram (Restore-A-Thon), Heather Borman (Restore-A-Thon), Martha H. Breed (Restore-A-Thon), Bei Brown, Jeffrey Brown (Restore-A-Thon), Delma M. Campbell, Virginia L. Carder, J. Dixon, Lynne Eggers (Restore-A-Thon), Cornelia A. Foster, Janet C. Griffiths, J. M. Hatch, Joanne Lacasse (Restore-A-Thon), Sandra Lundgren, Lynn MacDonald, Kevin Mann, Claudine Marquet (Alameda National Wildlife Refuge), Victoria L. Mason (Restore-A-Thon), Brian McCarthy (Restore-A-Thon), Patricia Miller, Mikiye Nakanishi (Restore-A-Thon), Richard A. Navarro (Restore-A-Thon), Edmund Ow (PG&E

Corporation Foundation), Elizabeth Payton (Restore-A-Thon), Miyeko Rautenberg, Daniel J. Richman (Restore-A-Thon), Dennis Romano, Robin Salsburg (Restore-A-Thon), Peter Seubert, Yvette D. Simpson, Terry Tolentino (Restore-A-Thon), Glen L. Van Lehn (Restore-A-Thon), Theresa Welborn (Restore-A-Thon), Janice Wells (Restore-A-Thon)

IN MEMORY OF
Cecil Page: Glen L. Gruel

IN HONOR OF
Dan Murphy's Golden Gate Audubon work for the Quail Restore-A-Thon: Anonymous

IN KIND
Jenn Rosenberg: Computer & Monitor



SPEAKER SERIES

Talks in the Speaker Series begin at 7:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., healthful, delicious snacks are served by hospitality coordinator, Susanne Shields. Golden Gate Audubon welcomes new Speaker Series coordinators, Sarah Reed and Matteo Garbelotto, who are facilitating programs in Berkeley and San Francisco, respectively.

The Hunt for Brewer, Buckwheat, and Bowerman

Seth Adams

Friday, January 13 Thursday, January 19
San Francisco Berkeley

Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo's Director of Land Programs, will offer a history of the mountain, touching on the people who have been drawn to it: William Brewer, the first person to document the Mt. Diablo buckwheat, and Mary Bowerman, the last person to study the live plant—and who went on to cofound Save Mt. Diablo (SMD) in 1971. Since then, the organization has helped to expand Mt. Diablo State Park and to form more than a dozen parks around Diablo, totaling 88,000 acres. In 1994 SMD created the 30-mile Diablo Trail across six parks. It now hopes to establish a 60-mile Diablo Grand Loop across three more preserves if two small gaps can be acquired.

Whooping Cranes: Recovering from the Brink of Extinction

Dr. George Archibald

Friday, February 10
San Francisco

For thousands of years, cranes have migrated across northern continents in autumn and spring. In recent times, many migratory populations were destroyed by the actions of humans. Now humans are returning Whooping Cranes to an ancestral flyway between Wisconsin and Florida by leading captive-reared juveniles on their first autumn flight behind ultra-light aircraft. In 2006, the Russians hope to do the same with Siberian Cranes. Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, will describe these ambitious projects that often blend biology and international relations.

The Infectious Diseases of Birds

Ravinder N. M. Sehgal

Thursday, February 16
Berkeley

Infectious diseases can threaten bird populations that have already been reduced due to habitat loss. Many species in Hawaii, for example, went extinct partly due to the introduction of avian malaria to the islands. Ravinder N. M. Sehgal will discuss the blood parasites of birds and how molecular methods can be used to detect such parasites and study their evolution. He will talk about how deforestation affects infectious diseases in African rain forest birds, as well as about the diseases of California raptors. Sehgal is an adjunct professor in the department of biology at San Francisco State University, where he teaches ornithology. He works with the Center for Tropical Research at UCLA and also with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, California Raptor Center, and Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

San Francisco: County Fair Building, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way. Directions: www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/visiting/page2.html

Berkeley: Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin). Directions: www.northbrae.org/directions.htm

Spring Birding Classes

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon begin in early February. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, fourth edition, by the National Geographic Society.

Field Ornithology I

Introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution, and behavior. Class meets on Tuesdays.

Part A (EA101): February 7–March 21

Part B (EA105): March 28–May 16

Field Ornithology II

Continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds, including herons and waterfowl. Class meets on Wednesdays.

Part A (EA110): February 8–March 22

Part B (EA115): March 29 – May 17

Field Ornithology III

Continuing study of North American land birds including swifts, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and flycatchers. Class meets on Thursdays.

Part A (EA120): February 9–March 23

Part B (EA125): March 30–May 18

All classes meet from 7–9:15 p.m. in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore, San Francisco. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay Street. Optional weekend field trips may be arranged. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

Fees are \$130 for each seven-week course. Preregistration is advised. For information call 415.561.1860. To enroll online, go to www.evolveww.com/ce.ccsf. For additional information, see Joe Morlan's website at <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmoran/>.



FIELD TRIPS

SUSAN GROVES, COORDINATOR

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sundays, January 1, February 5, March 5

Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna,
415.566.3241; Ginny Marshall,
650.349.3780

For this half-day trip, meet at 8 a.m. at front gate of Botanical Garden, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way. The garden has several micro-habitats that attract an array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds

Arrowhead Marsh Bilingual Family Trip

Oakland

Fridays, January 6, February 3, March 3

Olga Rojas and Susan Groves,
510.654.5954, groves.susan@gmail.com

Meet at 3:30 p.m. in front of lookout structure at Arrowhead Marsh. We'll restore critical salt marsh habitat for shorebirds and endangered Clapper Rails. We'll also check out birds, so bring binoculars or use ours. Trip conducted in Spanish and English; ends at 5:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Students can earn community service hours.

Take I-880 to Hegenberger exit and go west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Dr. Turn right on Doolittle, then right onto Swan Way and left into MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. Drive to end for Arrowhead Marsh parking lot.

Birding for Everyone

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Saturdays, January 7, February 4, March 4

Angie Geiger and Nancy DeStefanis;
Darin Dawson, 415.387.9160

Meet at 10 a.m. at kiosk/bookstore at front gate of Botanical Garden, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. Trip ends at noon. Families welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Palo Alto Baylands and Mountain View Shoreline

Saturday, January 7

Dan Murphy, 415.564.0074,

murphsf@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at Baylands Preserve. The wetlands, marshes, and open waters at Palo Alto and Mountain View are among the most accessible sites for birders on the bay. Levees and boardwalks overlooking the preserves make them excellent spots to view 60–80 species that winter in South Bay, including ducks, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and raptors. Dress appropriately for cold, wet weather. If it has rained, wear boots or waders since levees can be muddy. Rain will not cancel trip, but may shorten it. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends at 3 p.m.

From Hwy. 101, just south of Dumbarton Bridge, exit at Embarcadero Rd. East. Stay to right and be careful not to end up on Oregon Expressway. Drive east over freeway to end of street, turn left, and continue to duck pond on left. We will meet in parking lot to right of gate (gate may be locked until 8 a.m.).

Winter Raptors of Robinson Road

Solano County

Sunday, January 8

Bob Power, 510.482.9601,
rcpower@sbcglobal.net; Michael Butler,
510.684.3375, mjbkl@earthlink.net

Trip is limited to 14 birders so reserve ahead with Bob Power. For details and directions, see December *Gull*.

Let's Go See Sandhill Cranes!

Rio Vista, Solano County

Saturday, January 14

Harry Fuller, 415.344.2363,
anzatowhee@yahoo.com,
www.towhee.net

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at eastern end of Orinda BART parking lot to carpool to area east of Rio Vista. For details, see December *Gull*.



Contact Susan Groves, Field Trips Coordinator,
at 510.654.5954 or grove.susan@gmail.com

- > if you can share a ride or if you need a ride
- > if you cannot reach a leader and need information
- > if you have suggestions for trips or want to lead a trip

Las Gallinas

Marin County

Sunday, January 15

Pamela Llewellyn, 510.843.7904,
seacreature219@sbcglobal.net

Meet at 8:30 a.m. for this 3-hour trip. We'll see a variety of wintering ducks, shorebirds, and raptors.

Take Hwy. 101 north and exit at Lucas Valley Dr. Go east on Smith Ranch Rd. to county park. Take a sharp left to sewage treatment ponds. Drive past headquarters to parking lot on left.

Corona Heights

San Francisco

Fridays, January 20, February 17

Charles Hibbard, Lewis Elingham,
Brian Fitch

Meet at 8 a.m. at Randall Museum, Museum Way off Roosevelt. We'll enjoy stunning views of the city and bay as we circle Corona Heights, checking the east canyon woodland and the north forest for residents and migrants, as well as monitor the hilltop scrub and south cliff. For more information, contact Margaret Goodale, 415.554.9600, ext. 16, mgoodale@randallmuseum.org.

Lafayette Reservoir

Contra Costa County

Saturday, January 21

Denise Wight, 510.547.6822 (w),
925.377.0951 (h), blkittiwake@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at southeast end of spillway parking lot. We'll look at birds in oak woodland and planted pines, as well as waterbirds on reservoir. Bald Eagle has wintered here in the past. We will walk the 2.7-mile trail (mostly paved bike trail) at a birder's pace.

Take Hwy. 24 east from Berkeley. Exit Acalanes Rd. and take Mt. Diablo Blvd. toward Lafayette. You will see the sign for Lafayette Reservoir on the right. Parking fee is \$6. \$



Carpool



Entrance fee



Biking trip

Bodega Bay

Sonoma County

Sunday, January 22

Bruce Mast, bmast@alumni.rice.edu

Meet at 10 a.m. at first lot just after entrance to Doran Regional Park. We'll bird the Bodega Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many spots as possible. Bring lunch. Trip may last until 3–4 p.m. \$

San Francisco Birds at Merrie Way

Sundays, January 22, February 26

Harry Fuller, 415.344.2363,
anzatowhee@yahoo.com

This is the first of regular trips held on the fourth Sunday of each month. Meet at 8 a.m. at Merrie Way, the unpaved lot at west end of Pt. Lobos above Cliff House at Land's End. Follow the birds and seasons at one of the city's most beautiful spots, from Surfbirds in winter to baby Red-tailed Hawks in summer. Email leader for transit (Muni) info if needed.

Aquatic Park

San Francisco

Sundays, January 22, February 19

Carol Kiser, SF Maritime National Historical Park ranger, 415.561.7100 or 561.7104

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at foot of Hyde Street Pier, at Hyde and Jefferson, for this 2-hour beginners' walk to discover birds in the urban environment. Dress in layers. Trip is wheelchair accessible.

Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

Oakland

Wednesdays, January 25, February 22

Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066,
hilary@powersedit.com; Ruth Tobey,
510.528.2093, ruthtobey@earthlink.net;
Travis Hails, 510.451.1207 (no calls after 9 p.m.), travishails@yahoo.com

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at spherical cage by children's art center, just up Bellevue from Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. Trip ends at noon or before.

Bus: Take 12, N, or NL to Grand and Perkins and walk into park on Perkins. **Car:** Park in free lot at boathouse, 568 Bellevue.

FIELD TRIPS continued on page 11

Bicycle Trips

Kathy Jarrett

510.547.1233 (call for cell number; no calls after 9 p.m.), Kathy_Jarrett@yahoo.com

Bicycle helmet required. Bring lunch and liquids, and dress in layers. Rain cancels.

Arrowhead Marsh

Saturday, January 28

Rain date: Saturday, February 25 (Times are 1 hour earlier due to 9:26 a.m. high tide.)

Meet at 8:50 a.m. at Fruitvale BART station in Oakland or 9:10 at East Creek Point parking area. Trip ends around noon, with a possible extension around Bay Farm Island. We'll look for shorebirds and ducks on marsh and bay. High tide is at 10:30 a.m., good for sighting rails. We'll make a loop from Fruitvale BART to SF Bay Trail at East Creek Point, Damon Marsh, Arrowhead Marsh, and Doolittle Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, bicycle/pedestrian bridge from Bay Farm Island to Alameda and Fernside Blvd., Fruitvale Bridge, and back to Fruitvale BART. We'll ride mainly on trails and on roads with bicycle lanes.

Exit I-880 at High St. in Oakland and go .25 mi. southwest toward High St. Bridge to Alameda. Just before bridge, turn left onto Tidewater Ave. and go .25 mi. East Creek Point Parking Area is accessed to right. Fruitvale BART Station is just south of Fruitvale Ave. between E. 12th St. and San Leandro Blvd. Call leader for other options.

Emeryville to Richmond on SF Bay Trail

Saturday, February 11

Rain date: Saturday, March 11

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Aquatic Park (southernmost pond) at Bay and Potter Sts. in Berkeley or at 9:30 a.m. at intersection of Powell St. and Frontage Rd., in Emeryville, immediately adjacent to west side of I-80. We'll bird at Aquatic Park, cross over to SF Bay Trail, and go south to Emeryville and survey Eastshore State Park from there to Richmond, participating in the Golden Gate Audubon bird census. Bring bicycle lock.

Car: From San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley south of Ashby Ave., turn west toward bay on 67th St., then right on Bay St. (extension of Shellmound St. in Emeryville) just past train tracks and go to end, past Potter St., to small parking lot on right. Bicycle back to first pond. **Bike:** Ashby and North Berkeley BART stations are recommended for cyclists. Call if you want to accompany leader from Ashby station.

Palo Alto Baylands and Mountain View Shoreline

Sunday, February 26

Rain date: Sunday, March 12

Meet at 10:06 a.m. at California Ave. Caltrain Station in Palo Alto or at 10:30 at duck pond at Baylands Preserve. We should find many species of birds on bay and in ponds and sloughs. High tide at 10:30 is good for sighting rails. We'll continue to Mountain View Shoreline. Those who arrive on Caltrain will continue to the Mountain View station via Stevens Creek Trail. Much of trip will be on flat paved trails and designated bike lanes, some on gravel and some on roads.

Car: From Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto, take Embarcadero East exit. Follow Embarcadero to end, turn left on Harbor Rd., and follow signs. **Train:** Daly City train leaves Rockridge BART at 7:59 a.m., MacArthur at 8:03, and arrives Balboa Park at 8:43; transfer to Millbrae train leaving at 8:45 and arriving Millbrae at 9:10. Take Caltrain from Millbrae, leaving at 9:24 and arriving Palo Alto–Calif Ave. station at 10:06. To transfer from BART to Caltrain, take bicycle up elevator, purchase round-trip ticket from machine, then take bicycle down different elevator to west side of tracks to await southbound train. Use the northernmost car, reserved for bicycles. Train also departs at 9 a.m. from 4th and King station in SF. Caltrain is on an hourly schedule. Restrooms on train. Northbound train departs Mountain View station at 3:19 p.m., Palo Alto–Calif Ave. at 3:27, arriving Millbrae at 4:08 and SF at 4:36. BART is on a 20-minute schedule. Northbound there is direct access from Caltrain to the BART turnstile (no elevator needed).

BART and Caltrain schedules: www.transitinfo.org



OBSERVATIONS

BRUCE MAST

NOVEMBER 1 – 30, 2005

November weather remained unseasonably warm and dry. Perhaps the balmy weather accounted for the slow birding. The month was noteworthy more for birds not seen than seen: no unusual pipits, no golden plovers and few other remarkable shorebirds, no particularly noteworthy gulls, and no longspurs reported anywhere in the region.

LOONS TO DUCKS

The Crissy Field, SF, Red-necked Grebe continued working the waters around the Coast Guard Pier this month (MZ; PS). Elsewhere, a Red-necked Grebe returned to Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, for another year (WL, TH; EV) and Grebes were sighted off S. SF and Pigeon Pt., SM (RTh). No pelagic trips went out this month but seawatches from Pigeon Pt., SM, on the 13th and 26th yielded 527 Northern Fulmar, a Pink-footed Shearwater, and a Short-tailed Shearwater (RTh).

The Inverness Park, MRN, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) remained in the company of the Black-crowned Night-Herons behind the store (mob). Despite their size, the Night-Herons

were sometimes challenging to locate on their concealed roosts. Around the Bay, observers noted 10+ Greater white-fronted Geese, several Snow and Ross's Geese, 60+ Cackling Geese of various races, and several Brants. Beginning the 16th, the Green-winged Teal flock behind the Nob Hill Market in Redwood Shores, SM, included a Eurasian x American hybrid (RTh). By the 24th, a pure Eurasian bird joined the flock (RTh). Seaside, a Long-tailed Duck was spied on the 11th in the waters off the Pillar Pt. jetty, SM (GD, ND). A Long-tailed was tentatively ID'd at great distance near Mile Rock Lighthouse, SF, on the 12th (NW). Bayside, a Long-tailed Duck was observed swimming near the SM Bridge, SM, Nov. 17-19 (RTh; EDB) and 2 more were noted near Pigeon Pt., SM, on the 26th (RTh).

RAPTORS TO ALCIDS

Ten Ferruginous Hawk sightings were concentrated in the Livermore Valley and surrounding hills (ALA/CC); Coyote Valley (SCL); and Hawk Hill, MRN. On the 4th, Hawk Hill monitors watched a Rough-Legged Hawk fly over Alcatraz and Treasure Is., SF (SB). On the 8th, a Rough-legged

Hawk was reported from Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN (RS). Five Prairie Falcons visited the region this month: Nov. 1 at Calero Res., SCL (AV); 2 birds on Nov. 12 at Robinson Rd., SOL (RL, UW); Nov. 16 at CCFS, SCL (RC); and Nov. 19–20 at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve in Livermore, ALA (DB, PB; RC). By the 12th, the Mountain Plover flock in southern SOL, first reported on Oct. 12, had moved to its typical wintering grounds along Robinson Rd. (RL, UW). The only Pectoral Sandpiper this month was a juvenile plumaged reported at Martinez RS, CC, on the 7th (DD).

Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were regularly recorded at Pigeon Pt. seawatches and a subadult Pomarine came into the bay as far south as Oyster Pt., in S. SF, SM, on the 20th (RTh). The Nov. 26 Pigeon Pt. seawatch also produced 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes (RTh). Six Elegant Terns remained in Sausalito, MRN, through the 4th (RS) and single Elegants showed up at Redwood Shores, SM, on the 8th (RTh) and offshore at the Presidio, SF, on the 18th (HF, MB). As many as 9 Black Skimmers remained all month at their preferred roost near Radio Rd. in Redwood Shores, SM, provoking speculation that they may overwinter this year (RTh; KO, DW, BB).

DOVES TO THRASHERS

On the 19th, visitors to the newly opened Brushy Peak Regional Preserve in Livermore, ALA, reported a tremolo song coming from a eucalyptus grove that they identified as a Lesser Nighthawk (DB, PB). At Hayward RS, ALA, 2 Common Nighthawks were seen flying south over Mt. Trashmore on the 7th (BR). A Nov. 20 visit to the Santa Cruz Mountains to check known Common Poorwill breeding sites located 3 Poorwills responding to taped calls in the vicinity of Loma Prieta peak, SCL (DS). Through the 21st, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker made sporadic appearances in GGP, SF, near the 7th Ave. entrance (JC; BF, AW, KR). On Nov. 18, an Eastern Phoebe was a one-day wonder at Oka Ponds, SCL (PD, JP). A couple Tropical Kingbirds remained through Nov.



Black Skimmer.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Western Tanager.

2 at Pillar Pt. Marsh, Princeton, SM (GD). The eastern race Bell's Vireo, first found on Oct. 30, attracted numerous visitors to the McLaren Rhododendron Dell in GGP throughout the month (mob). At CCFS, SCL, last month's Plumbeous Vireo stuck around in the cottonwoods along Coyote Cr. through the 5th (mob). On the 7th, an American Dipper turned up at an unusual location on Pescadero Conservation Alliance property along Gazos Cr., SM, (DS). An immature Swainson's Thrush was a late migrant at CCFS on the 9th (RC). A Nov. 12 trip up Mines Rd., ALA, logged a Phainopepla (BB).

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A few eastern vagrant warblers straggled through the region in Nov. Notably, a Lucy's Warbler, probably an adult female, was banded at the PRBO Palomarin Field Station, MRN, on the 1st (TG). Starting the 19th, a female Black-throated Blue Warbler spent a couple days foraging in a cottonwood behind the Duarte's Tavern in Pescadero, SM (RTh; ST). A female Pine Warbler was reported on the 4th at the mouth of Dennison's Cr. in Princeton, SM, but a Blackpoll Warbler discovered at the same spot the next day raised questions about the Pine Warbler ID (ADM, CL, DVP). A bright male Western Tanager was a late visitor to Lafayette Park, SF, on the 4th (PMC).

A Nov. 9 visit to the Putah Cr. State Wildlife Area, SOL, yielded a Green-tailed Towhee (BC). Clay-colored Sparrows were

Wood Warbler Sightings

Nashville Warbler

11/ 7	Half Moon Bay, SM	RTh
11/ 13	Speedway Meadow, GGP, SF	DA
11/ 14	Middle L., GGP, SF	DA
11/ 27	San Bruno, SM	RTh

Golden-crowned Warbler

11/ 4	Bolinas Lagoon, MRN	RS
11/ 4	Sunset Circle, L. Merced, SF	DA
11/ 7	Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN	BL
11/ 12-27	Rodeo Lagoon, MRN	WL, JS, KL

Lucy's Warbler

11/ 1	PRBO Palomarin Field Station, MRN	TG
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Blackpoll Warbler

11/ 5	Dennison's Cr., Princeton, SM	CL, DVP
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Yellow Warbler

11/ 14	Middle L., GGP, SF	DA
11/ 21	Stevens Cr., Sunnyvale, SCL	MR

Black-throated Blue Warbler

11/ 19-20	Pescadero Cr., Pescadero, SM	RTh; ST
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Black-throated Gray Warbler

11/ 7	Stinson Beach, MRN	KHa
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Hermit Warbler

11/ 28	Kennedy Park in NAP, NAP	JL
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Pine Warbler

11/ 4	Dennison's Cr., Princeton, SM	ADM
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Dark-eyed Junco

11/ 3	Yolo Ave., Berkeley, ALA	HG
11/ 5	N. L., GGP, SF	NW

American Robin

11/ 1-2	Kobbe and Upton, Presidio, SF	BP; MZ
11/ 5	N. L., GGP, SF	NW

Northern Waterthrush

11/ 5	Guadalupe River, SCL	MR
11/ 20	L. Merritt, Oakland, ALA	RTe

Abbreviations for Observers. ADM, Al DeMartini; AK, Andy Kleinhesselink; AV, Ann Verdi; AW, Alan Wight; BB, Bill Bousman; BWB, Bonnie Bedford-White; BC, Brent Campos; BF, Brian Fitch; BL, Bob Lewis; BP, Bob Power; BR, Bob Richmond; CL, Calvin Lou; DA, David Armstrong; DB, Dennis Braddy; DD, David Diller; DE, Daniel Edelstein; DR, Don Reinberg; DS, David Sudjian; DVP, David VanderPluym; DW, Dave Weber; EB, Ellen Blustein; EDB, Ed DeBellevue; EV, Ed Vermulen; GD, Gary Deghi; HC, Hugh Cotter; HF, Harry Fuller; HG, Helen Green; JC, Josiah Clark; JL, John Luther; JP, Janna Pauser, JR, Jim Rowoth, JS, Judy Sierra; LS, Judy Spitler; KHa, Keith Hansen; KHi, Kevin Hinsta; KL, Kay Laughman; KO, Kris Olson; KR, Kathy Robertson; MB, Michele Brodie; MK, Mary Kelly; MM, Michael Mammoser; MON, Martha O'Neal; MR, Mike Rogers; MS, Michael Stevenson; MU, Myra Ulvang; MZ, Matt Zlatunich; ND, Nathan Deghi; NW, Nathaniel Wander; PB, Patricia Braddy; PD, Peggy Don; PMC, Pat McCulloch; PS, Paul Saraceni; RC, Rich Cimino; RC, Rita Colwell; RF, Rick Ferrick; RL, Robin Leong; RS, Rich Stallcup; RTe, Ryan Terrill; RTh, Ron Thorn; SB, Steven Bauer; SH, Steve Huckabee; ST, Scott Terrill; TG, Thomas Gardali; TH, Tony Harrow; TO, Trent Orr; UW, Uzelle Williams; WL, William Legge

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers, "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others. ALA, Alameda; BBA, Breeding Bird Atlas; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Creek Field Station; Cr., Creek; Cyn., Canyon; DENWR, Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge; EEC, Environmental Education Center; Ft., Fort; GGP, Golden Gate Park; GGRO, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory; L, Lake; MDSP, Mount Diablo State Park; Mt. Mount; MRN, Marin; N., North; NAP, Napa; NSMWA, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; OSP, Open Space Preserve; Pt., Point; PRNS, Pt Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; Rd., Road; Res., Reservoir; RS, Regional Shoreline; S., South; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SEFI, SE Farallon Island; SF, San Francisco; SFBBO, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant

reported from 5 locales, including 3 in SF. On Nov. 12, a Vesper Sparrow was noted in the open area near the Nike Missile Site on Angel Island, MRN (DD). On the 19th, a female-type Lark Bunting joined a sparrow flock near the Gazos Cr. Access on Highway 1, SM (RTh). Birders reported 5 Swamp and 28 White-throated Sparrows. An Inverness, MRN, sparrow appeared to be a hybrid White-throated x Golden-crowned (EB; mob)

A flock of about 20 Tricolored Blackbirds set up camp at Calero Res., SCL, through the 21st (AV). A couple more Tricoloreds spent a couple days at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park, SM, starting the 22nd (RF). On the

24th, the Bayfront Park blackbird flock was joined by a hatch-year male Rusty Blackbird (RF; RTh, BB). Nov. 18-27, a couple nondescript Orioles were regular visitors to the bottlebrush at Fort Mason, SF. At least one was determined to be an Orchard Oriole (CL; TO, MB, AK). On the 4th, a Bullock's Oriole was reported from the Sunset Circle at L. Merced, SF (DA). On Nov. 2, a flock of 12 Red Crossbills wandered over to Rob Hill, Presidio, SF (MZ). A Nov. 12 trip through San Antonio Valley, SCL, tallied 23 Lawrence's Goldfinches (BB). Finally, a couple Evening Grosbeaks stopped over in Cull Cyn. Recreational Area in Castro Valley, ALA, on the 18th (KHi).



BACKYARD BIRDER

MEG PAULETICH

Now that we are in the midst of a California winter, we can expect almost any type of weather and, no doubt, will complain if it is too warm, too wet, too windy, or too cold. We who have the best of weather worlds are whiners . . . just because the weather isn't always perfect!

Many birds, however, have discovered that they can stay the winter in the Bay Area partly because, as a rule, the weather is not severe and maybe because so many of us feed birds and keep the weak ones from starving. When I first began birding 40 years ago, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos went north to breed in the summertime. Now they're here year-round and have become one of the most common birds across the United States.

Allen's Hummingbirds migrate through here in spring and fall, while Anna's are year-long residents. It amazes me that they choose to have their first brood in January or February when winter storms can strike. I don't feed hummers when there is plenty of natural food, but in winter they need a helping hand. If you feed them, here are some suggestions for their good health. A small feeder is better in my opinion because you will change the food frequently as the birds consume it, ensuring its freshness. Mix one part sugar (never honey) with four parts water and bring to a boil. Let the solution cool and fill the feeder. There is no need to add artificial color.

Using up energy as fast as they sip nectar or sugar water, these dynamos will find your feeder in jiffy time. Between sips of your sugar water, these tiny jewels perch nearby while they digest the food and guard "their" feeder, as they are very territorial. Hummingbirds also get energy from tiny insects present during the winter, as do other small birds such as kinglets, creepers, and chickadees. When dusk arrives, hummers settle into a protected shrub or tree and enter a state of torpor, dropping their body temperatures so they use very little of their stored energy. As the sun rises, they warm up and begin their search for food all over again, feeding almost constantly all day.

Winter bird-watching is just as interesting as witnessing spring and fall migrations. The advantage of better viewing without foliage hiding the birds is an added bonus. Woodpeckers are especially satisfying to observe as they hammer away at suet cakes or peanuts. Being among the less nervous avian subjects, they tend to stay in one place for a while. Thistle brings

Waxwings are very popular among birders, for good reason. You might hear their high, wispy whistles before you spy them. They appear as sleek as porcelain figurines, their subtle tones contrasting with their black masks, yellow bellies, tail markings, and waxy red-orange wing tips. What beauties they are! Waxwings are primary distributors of seeds from all kinds of trees



Dark-eyed junco.

in the Lesser and American Goldfinches. They are also cooperative birds that literally hang around for long periods of time. Don't worry that feeding birds will prevent them from migrating. Birds respond to shrinking hours of daylight, which brings about hormonal changes that cause them to migrate.

If you are lucky to have berry-producing plants such as pyracantha, Toyon, or hawthorns, you will be treated to flocks of robins and other thrushes such as the Hermit Thrush, along with the sleek Cedar Waxwings. The ripening time for the berries varies greatly. Only the bird tasters know when berries have ripened into a perfect brew.

and shrubs. Over time, many stands of woods owe their existence to these birds. The only time these frugivores vary their diets is in late spring and summer when berry stocks are low. Then they delicately pluck tree blossoms, eating them whole or tearing them in half and consuming them along with any attending insects. In late winter, large flocks perch in treetops just as the sun sets, warming themselves before dark.

Don't forget that the occasional winter storm brings gifts of unusual bird sightings. Between squalls, bundle up and visit one of many birding sites along the bay for unexpected treats. Enjoy winter birding—regardless of the weather.

Eastshore State Park**Friday, January 27**Bob Lewis, 510.845.5001,
rlewis0727@aol.com

Meet at 11:30 a.m. at parking lot next to Berkeley Yacht Club (go down University Ave. to end, turn right, and go to end). We'll check out waterfront area at high tide for roosting shorebirds, walk the pier looking for ducks, grebes, and loons, and then bird up University Ave. along Eastshore State Park, basing our decisions on weather and tide. Trip lasts about 2 hours.

Honey Larks and Greater Sage-Grouse**Saturday–Sunday, March 25–26****Trip sign-up: after January 27**Dave Quady, 510.704.9353,
davequady@att.net

Trip is limited to first 20 participants who sign up with leader after January 27. For details, see December *Gull*.

Lake Merritt**Saturdays, January 28, February 25**

Travis Hails, 510.451.1207 (no calls after 9 p.m.), travishails@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at spherical cage near Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. This trip will provide an introduction to birding and an opportunity to study birds that are difficult to identify. First half focuses on waterbirds. Second half is in parklands bordering lake where we expect to see smaller birds. Vagrant species occur frequently at Lake Merritt. Route is handicapped accessible. For directions, see January 25 trip.

Rail Bonanza at Arrowhead Marsh**Sunday, January 29**

Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911 (no calls before 9 a.m.), capeddle@there.net

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to study and enjoy wintering birds. Up to 14 species of ducks can be seen, and since this is the highest tide,

GGA Member's Invited to Alcatraz Island

Join National Park Service biologist Christian Hellwig for a series of birding sessions on Alcatraz Island, offered exclusively to Golden Gate Audubon Supporting Members. The 2-hour trips, with GGA coleaders, will begin on Thursday, February 9, and continue on the second Thursday of the month through July.

It is a well-kept secret that La Isla de los Alcatraces is home to about 2,000 pairs of Western Gulls, Brandt's Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets, Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, and California Gulls, as well as several passerines. Many of these colonies are unique in the Bay Area, and the Brandt's colony is one of only two known estuarine colonies. Over the next few months, we'll see gulls, night-herons, egrets, and cormorants return, defend territories, and display. By April, all birds are engaged in building nests and laying eggs.

Come see these birds at a closer range than you may have ever imagined possible. Christian will share his knowledge of these colonies and the challenges he faces in ensuring their safety. Each walk is limited to the first 10 GGA Supporting Members who reserve a place. To sign up for the February 9 and March 9 trips, email Pamela Llewellyn, GGA coleader, at seacreature219@sbcglobal.net between January 25 and February 1 with name(s), date of walk, and contact info. Pamela will confirm your reservation and send travel information.

it should be a Clapper Rail bonanza outing! Bring scope if you have one. For directions, see January 6 trip.

Eastshore State Park**Hosted by: Anne Hoff****Sunday, January 29**Anne Hoff, 510.845.5908,
Anne2210b@sbcglobal.net

Meet at 9 a.m. at north end of Hs. Lordship's Restaurant lot for a half-day stroll through several habitats. We'll look for wintering land birds, ducks and gulls. The wintering Burrowing Owl may have checked in to its Cesar Chavez Park haunt. We'll also sample the new Eastshore State Park adjacent to the marina. Heavy rain cancels.

Ocean and Woods**Hosted by: Harry Fuller****Sunday, February 5**Harry Fuller, 415.344.2363,
anzatowhee@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at Merrie Way, the unpaved lot at west end of Pt. Lobos above Cliff House at San Francisco's Land's End. We'll check the Pacific for wintering birds, then tour the Presidio from Crissy Field to El Polin Spring. Expect wind, which can always bring good birds. Soaring Brown Pelicans guaranteed. Learn how to tell their ages.

Panoche Valley**Hosted by: Chris Carpenter****Saturday, February 11**Chris Carpenter, 510.639.1262 (day),
510.547.2201 (eve.), cgbirds@comcast.net

Meet at 8 a.m. at intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 mi. south of Hollister. From there we will drive east on J-1 to Panoche Valley. This trip traverses raptor habitat, which usually produces Golden Eagle. Expect Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, and Vesper Sparrows. Be sure to fill gas tank before leaving Hollister; carpool if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Trip will end about 3 p.m. Rain cancels.

Candlestick State Recreation Area Bird Walk**Hosted by: David Armstrong****Sunday, February 12**David Armstrong, 415.305.7681,
darmstrong99@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at parking lot near kiosk at main entrance to Candlestick State Recreation Area for this 2-hour walk. We will look for ducks and shorebirds. Exit Hwy. 101 at Monster Park and follow signs to recreation area, which is across street and to east of stadium. Heavy rain cancels.

FIELD TRIPS continued on page 12

Wednesday at Arrowhead Marsh

Wednesday, February 15

Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911 (no calls before 9 a.m.), capeddle@there.net

Meet at Arrowhead Marsh parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to study and enjoy wintering birds. Up to 14 species of ducks, and always the possibility of seeing Clapper Rails. Bring scope if you have one. For directions, see January 6 trip.

Eastshore State Park

Berkeley

Saturday, February 18

Dave Quady, 510.704.9353,
davequady@att.net

Explore a portion of the Berkeley waterfront and Eastshore State Park. Meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot at foot of University Ave., at corner closest to Skates restaurant. From there we will walk to various spots and bird until about noon, looking for shorebirds, waterbirds, and maybe land birds, too. Bring a scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels.

Cache Creek Nature Preserve

Yolo County

Saturday, February 18

Bob Power, 510.482.9601,
rcpower@sbcglobal.net

Come visit Cache Creek Conservancy, a pristine stretch of riparian woodland and wetlands. For details and directions, see December *Gull*.

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Saturday, February 25

Anne Hoff, 510 845-5908,
Anne2210b@sbcglobal.net

Meet at 9 a.m. at visitor center parking lot for this half-day trip. We will bird varied habitats of this jewel of a park, looking for wintering waterfowl, waders, and songbirds. We may also have a nice assortment of raptors. Bring liquids. Heavy rain cancels.

From East Bay, take I-880 south to 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Turn right and continue west. Exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north for 1 mile, then turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to park. \$

Yosemite National Park

Friday–Sunday, June 2–4

Trip sign-up: after February 26

Dave Quady, 510 704.9353,
davequady@att.net; Bob Lewis

Trip is limited to first 20 participants who sign up. The park's lower and middle elevations are alive with singing birds and have a variety of habitats that support a rich diversity of bird life. Detailed information will be provided to those confirmed on the trip. Carpooling is encouraged. Be prepared to walk about 3 miles each day.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires the EBPRD to assess wildlife use and to consider potential wildlife impacts for a project of this scope. But the EBPRD has failed to do either of these things and has refused to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the law.

by Samantha Murray, Conservation Director

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Golden Gate Audubon strongly endorses the enjoyment of the outdoors, but not at the expense of wildlife and habitat. Please write the EBRPD board member representing your area, stating that you value the wildlife and habitat of the Caldecott Wildlife Corridor and want to see Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve managed for the protection of these natural resources. Also note that you do not support a dramatic increase in recreation infrastructure and that, prior to any recreation expansion, an EIR must be completed, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. To find your board member or to email your member, go to www.ebparks.org/district/board. Letters should be sent to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, PO Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605. For more information, contact Samantha Murray at smurray@goldengateaudubon.org or 510.843.6551.

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